

BtN: Episode 35 Transcript 2/12/14

There's been happy times and sad times, triumphs and tragedies.

But what big events will 2014 really be remembered for?

Well today we're going to find out as we take a look back through a big year of BtN!

Hi I'm Nathan and welcome to the last BtN for 2014!

To celebrate we're doing something a little different today. We're going to take you back through some of the stories BtN covered this year. From the biggest news to hit both here and overseas to all of the kids that let us into their lives.

And as we do we're also going to give you a behind the scenes look at where BtN is made starting here in our studio. As you can see when we get rid of the green screen background we actually host BtN right next to Sarah from 3News! Hi Sarah.

She's just prepping for tonight's show so we better leave her to it.

Aussie News

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Here's Carl with a wrap of some of the biggest Australian stories that got us talking this year.

CARL SMITH, REPORTER: It was a busy year in Australia with plenty going on at Parliament House, out at sea and everywhere in between. One of the biggest stories that had everyone talking this year was the budget. But why was that again?

POLITICIANS: Tough budget, brutal and unfair, tough budget, tough budget. It is.

The government said they wanted to get rid of the country's debt and lower its spending. So they cut spending in a lot of areas and introduced some new taxes too. Or did they?

JAMES: Tax is sometimes such an unpopular word. Politicians have even come up with different ways of describing it. Fuel excise, a longevity levy, a flood levy, it's not a tax - it's a levy

No matter what they were called, lots of people were unhappy with the budget this year. But not all of the Government's budget cuts made it through. That's because a

few new faces appeared in the Senate this year, after last year's election, and stopped them.

MATT: For the government to introduce a new bill, the Senate has to vote on it. Without their approval, it can't go through.

Some of the new senators in particular made that pretty hard.

JACQUI LAMBIE: If you want to come into the kennel with the pups, prepare to be chewed up, and spat back out.

A few of those senators, among others, also called for the Burka to be banned. Some Islamic women wear the Hijab, Niqab or Burka as part of their faith.

EMAN: For a lot of different people, modesty is interpreted differently. So I might choose modesty as covering my hair and wearing long sleeves and long pants

But this year some politicians said that they could be a threat to security.

TONY ABBOTT: Now I've said before that I find it a fairly confronting form of attire. Frankly I wish it was not worn.

And the debate went on for quite a while.

Our new Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove was also appointed this year. He's the Queen's representative in Australia. And his job has some impressive perks.

MATT: If you really want to, you can even fire the Prime Minister. You're fired!

Although he has that power, the job mostly involves attending events and meeting lots of people. But not so long ago one of Australia's Prime Ministers was fired by a Governor-General! His name was Gough Whitlam and this year he died aged 98.

TASH: But while not everyone agreed with how Gough Whitlam led the country, most agree he did transform Australia and give us many changes that are still in place today.

He introduced free university education and medical care and worked on Aboriginal land rights.

We also looked at the controversy around this plan.

TASH: Sand, silt and clay from the bottom of the port will have to be dug up and dumped. And where? In the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Some people worried the dumping might harm the reef.

But it wasn't all bad news this year. Prince William, the Duchess of Cambridge and baby Prince George made a visit to Australia! Some kids, and some BtN reporters, were pretty excited.

TASH: Alright Bradley so you got to meet the royals, how was it? It was good, he asked a lot of questions.

So there's just a few of this year's big Aussie stories on BtN.

Aussie News Quiz

Presenter: Okay, now throughout today's show we'll also be testing you on some of the big stuff that happened in 2014. There'll be 20 questions all up. Here's the first 5. Good luck!

1) Who am I?

It's federal MP and leader of the Palmer United Party, Clive Palmer!

2) What big meeting did Australia host this year?

The answer is the G20 and it was held in Brisbane.

3) This is a traditional Islamic piece of clothing. Is it called a Hijab, a Niqab, or a Burka?

It's a Niqab, It covers the face like a Burka, but the eyes aren't covered by mesh.

4) Australia made a deal to sell uranium to which country?

India, Pakistan, China, Afghanistan. Answer: India

5) Which state introduced a shark culling program this year?

WA

Presenter: Hmm some tough questions there make sure you keep your score as you go!

World News

Reporter: Natasha Thiele

INTRO: Okay, we're now in the control room that's used to control all the lights and cameras for BtN. All of those cameras are actually robotic, they're controlled with this joystick here. Now these screens up the back are showing all of the vision coming here via satellite from all over the world. And it's world stories we're going to take a look at next. Here's Tash with some of the biggest international news we saw from this year.

NATASHA THIELE, REPORTER: This year many events around the world left people shocked and upset. One of the biggest stories centred on Iraq, where an extremist group called Islamic State first came to worldwide attention. They've threatened western countries with violence and called on their followers to do the same. Australia joined countries like the US, UK, France and Germany in air strikes against IS.

In Gaza, fighting broke out between Israelis and Palestinians. More than 2,000 people died during these attacks.

Things also got pretty serious in a place called Ukraine. Protesters took to the streets, unhappy about how the country was being run. Ukraine ended up with a new leader, but things are far from settled with Russia now claiming a part of Ukraine as their own.

And in related news, the world was rocked when a Malaysia Airlines plane was shot down over Ukraine. MH17 was on its way to Kuala Lumpur from Amsterdam, when 298 people including 38 Aussies were killed. Much of the blame was placed on Russia, which is thought to have supplied the rocket launcher that was used in the attack.

Just months before all of that, another Malaysian Airlines plane MH370 disappeared on its way to China. The flight had 239 people on board including 6 Aussies.

This year, we also heard a lot about something called Ebola. More than 5-thousand people have died from Ebola across Africa. While there's still no cure, scientists are working hard to find one.

2014 was a good year for whales. An international court decided that Japan's whaling program was illegal. But while they're now banned from hunting them there, they can still hunt them in other parts of the ocean.

And the world remembered 100 years since the start of the First World War. It began on the 28th of July 1914 and ended on the 11th of November 1918. Many countries

were involved in the conflict and by the end of the war millions of people had been killed and many more wounded.

World News Quiz

Okay, it's time for the second part of our 2014 super quiz. Get your pens ready.

6) Where did Australia send troops to fight this year?

Iraq
Gaza
Egypt

7) What colour is a Black Box Flight Recorder?

Silver, orange or black.

8) What is the name of (this guy) the President of Russia?

Vladimir Putin

9) Where was there an outbreak of Ebola this year?

West Africa
South America
East Asia

10) And which battle does Australia remember on ANZAC day?

The Battle at Gallipoli

Kid Causes

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: Okay, I'm now in the computer network area of the ABC where all of the information for BtN's website goes out to you at home! And I can tell you this place has been working overtime to record all of the votes you left on our polls and all of the comments you left on our stories this year.

But what were the most popular? Well, our biggest poll with an all-time record of 5269 votes was the one that asked if it's okay to have the day off for your birthday. No surprises which answer won there either!

In the battle for most comments. The winning story was about WA's Shark Cull.

237 of you had your say about that one. But it was closely followed by our story about organ donation and the one about the ice bucket challenge. They were both stories done by kids wanting to let more people know about the causes that meant something to them.

Here's Emma with a recap of their stories and a few others from kids wanting to make a difference.

EMMA DAVIS, REPORTER: Remember the Ice Bucket Challenge? It took the world by storm. Loads of you got involved but Trinity told us all about the cause behind the challenge, Motor Neurone Disease. It's important to her because her dad has it.

TRINITY: It means a lot to my family and it raises a lot of money. Thank you.

Organ donation was also a big issue this year and Coen let us all know why it is so important. He was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis when he was a baby and was given a new set of lungs to help him breathe.

COEN: The first time I ran after my transplant my exact words were 'this is just alien like'.

Social media was the driving force behind this campaign all about body image. It was called Fresh Faced Friday and creator Brooke helped explain to us why she got involved.

BROOKE: I'm really passionate about this issue because I believe that body image is a huge problem in today's youth.

Back in June we found out that the Aussie Paralympics soccer team had all of its funding taken away but Claire from Canberra didn't want that to happen. So she wrote a letter to the Prime Minister and even got a reply back!

CLAIRE: Tony Abbott replied saying that he was talking about democracy so I replied to him saying isn't democracy supposed to be about equality.

Humanitarian workers were honoured this year. Unicef youth Ambassador Josh told us about the amazing job aid workers do all over the world.

JOSH: This is what humanitarian work is all about, helping those who are suffering in situations they have no control over.

And orang-utan conservation was brought into the spotlight by Tahlia. She wanted all kids to know about the deadly effect palm oil plantations were having on their natural environment. She loves orang-utans so much, she even adopted some of her own!

TAHLIA: I've got Chocolate, Carlos, Jarret, Wenda and Gokong.

Finally we learnt about one of the most inspirational kids of all. Seventeen year old Malala Yousafzai has fought for kids rights since she was a little girl. Two years ago she was shot by members of an extremist group but she survived and has kept campaigning around the world. And this year her work was recognised when she became the youngest ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize! Amazing work Malala!

Kid Causes Quiz

11) The ice bucket challenge supported Motor Neurone Disease. What other name is it known as?

- JLS
- ALS
- SLS

12) Which country is Malala Yousafzai from?

- Afghanistan
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh

13) What was the mission to land a spacecraft on a comet called?

- Rosetta

14) Where were the Winter Olympics held this year?

- Sochi, Russia

15) How many years has it been since man landed on the moon?

45

Rookie Reporters

Reporter: Natasha Thiele

INTRO: Now one of the most popular parts of our show this year were the reports sent in by kids wanting to show you what their life is like. And here in this edit suite is where we put them together. A lot of time goes into these reports but we think they're very special. Here's Tash with some of our favourites from this year.

NATASHA THIELE, REPORTER: This year we got an amazing insight into kids' lives and heard heaps of stories from their point of view. Eliza told us about her dyslexia.

ELIZA: It means that we have trouble remembering how sounds and words fit together.

And we learned from Declan what it means to have Aspergers.

DECLAN: When I learnt about Aspergers I was like 'I want to be normal', I thought that was a bad thing I thought that meant my brain was sick and stuff like that, but now I realise that it's a perfect condition, it's pretty good.

Nick gave us a lesson on what diabetes is.

NICK: Although diabetes is a disease you can still live an exciting lifestyle.

And Jack filled us in about what it's like to have asthma.

JACK: I have to be careful because if I do too much it usually ends like this. You see I've got asthma.

We also met some super talented kids along the way. There was an awesome surfer, young film-makers and a kid who turns old metal junk into art.

There were students passionate about music, another who started her own business and these cool riders who had a chance to perform in front of the Royal couple!

Their stories came from lots of different places, from kids in rural communities to kids living on islands.

DEWI: Hi BtN. My name is Dewi and welcome to Christmas Island.

We learned about a boy named after a war.

ANZAC: I'm Anzac. I'm the fifth person in my family with that name. There's my cousin, uncle, grandfather and great grandfather named Anzac too.

Amy went to South Korea and learned about the Korean War too. While Chloe and her school mates told us about their trip to Zambia where they met local kids who are passionate about conservation.

But that's not all. Many Aussie kids showed us the good things they're doing like protecting the environment, restoring old graves, volunteer fire fighting, donating to drought-affected farmers and encouraging all of us to save electricity.

From kids who love trains and paddle steamers, to those who like to chop wood, practice magic and win taekwondo. We've learned a lot from kids right around the country and we can't wait to hear from more of you next year!

Rookie Reporter Quiz

Okay now it's time for the last five questions from today's 2014 super quiz.

Hope you get a good score!

16) Who won the 2014 Soccer World Cup?

Germany

17) Which Indigenous basketballer won the NBA championship?

Patty Mills and he was playing for the San Antonio Spurs

18) This was called the most famous selfie of 2014. What event was it taken at?

The Academy Awards or Oscars.

19) Which Australian group became the first to achieve a number one with their debut album this year?

5 Seconds of Summer

20) And finally who can take credit for the fastest selling album of 2014?

That was Taylor Swift with 1989.

Bloopers

Reporter: Natasha Thiele

INTRO: How did you guys go?!

SOMEONE: Not so good!

Let us know what score you got on our website.

Now that almost brings us to the end of the year but we couldn't finish without showing you some of the fun we've had making Behind the News for you this year. Did we have fun guys? YES! Take a look.

NATASHA THIELE, REPORTER: On BtN, reporter involvement is crucial.

MATT: The graceful moves of a warrior.

EMMA: This is what figure skating isn't supposed to look like.

TASH: Oh yeah that's horrible!

MATT: Presenting the star seeker for Gryffindor, Matt Holbrook! Well, I can dream, right?

But sometimes just taking part in a story isn't enough. You have to look the part too.

SARAH: It wasn't the best speech ever, by all accounts.

KID: Hey!

SARAH: But it had an impact.

JAMES: I'm on a hunt for clues!

MATT: I'm Mattman.

EMMA: Matt, did you just say "I'm Mattman"?

MATT: No.

TASH: Ah uh you two. For talking in class, two strokes of the cane.

MATT: I'm not going to get stung am I?

And then there are times when one reporter isn't enough.

NATHAN: Wake up bozos!

SARAH: But we just got to sleep!

NATHAN: I haven't said my line yet!

EMMA: I'm way better than those other guys.

CAMERA OPERATOR: Hang on, you just spat on my lens!

NATHAN: You could be Australia's ne, yeah Australia's next. Sorry!

NATHAN: You could be Australia's next BTN presenter!

This year we tried new things.

EMMA: Basically what it does is takes the blood out of my arm puts it into that machine and spins it around really fast.

We met some strange creatures.

JAMES: I'm pretty scared!

TASH: Live leeches like this little one here were used in something called bloodletting.

And some creatures even tried to force their way into the show. But most of all, we had a lot of fun!

Closer

And that's it from all of us for this show and for the year! We'd like to thank everyone for watching. And we can't wait to be back even bigger and better in 2015! Have a great holidays and bye for now!